



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.



OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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TEMCO/Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEERS

The Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO) and The American Samoa Project Recovery Outreach (ASPRO), a sector of the Hurricane Olaf Crisis Counseling Program for the Territory, spent Wednesday, December 21st spreading holiday cheers to patients, young and old, at the LBJ Hospital and the Nazareth House at Fatuoaiga. They sang Christmas carols and presented gift baskets and other holidays goodies for the patients.

The ASPRO is part of a grant resulting from the Governor's request for disaster declaration after Hurricane Olaf. The program is managed and implemented by TEMCO. The program objective is to assist individuals affected with disaster-related emotions, primarily the Manu'a islands for the last disaster.

As it is the holiday season, the Program is determined to make a difference by singing Christmas carols to these patients and to promote the holiday spirit and soothing feelings to possibly help with their recovery, and further, envisioning the peace brought forth by the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. From all at TEMCO, have a Happy and Safe Holidays American Samoa, and most of all - *Be Prepared*.

AVIAN/BIRD FLU – WILL IT BECOME AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC?

By Utoofili A. Maga, Director – Department of Health

What is an Influenza Pandemic? The word "Pandemic" is Greek, meaning, "all of the people", is an epidemic of human disease occurring over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and affecting a large number of people. Influenza is a virus that causes respiratory disease in humans, with typical symptoms of fever, cough, and muscle aches, and, rare, pneumonia and death.

Historically, the 20th century saw 3 pandemics of influenza. In 1918, the pandemic influenza known then as the Spanish Flu (H1N1) caused at least 40 million deaths worldwide. The 1958 pandemic influenza (H3N2) caused 2 million deaths worldwide. The 1968 pandemic influenza (H3N2) known as the Hong Kong Flu killed about a million people.

Presently, the world is awaiting the arrival of the *Avian/Bird Flu* virus. No one knows for sure whether it'll happen, when it's going to happen, and its severity. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are six phases to the Pandemic Influenza, and we are at the 3rd phase of the pandemic. This phase is a pandemic alert period whereby there are no human infection(s) with a new strain, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.

Outbreaks caused by *H5N1 Avian/Bird Flu* are of particular concern because of their association with severe illness and a high case fatality. Never before has an avian influenza virus with a documented ability to infect humans cause such widespread outbreaks in birds in so many countries. As of November 1, 2005, WHO reported 122 cases, 62 of whom have died in four countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Scientists cannot predict whether an avian influenza (H5N1) virus will cause a pandemic. That is why we are focusing on comprehensive Public Health efforts; Increasing surveillance and monitoring for out-breaks, international cooperation, antiviral and vaccine stockpiles and building more robust capacity for vaccine production. This will help protect us no matter what pandemic strain emerges or where.

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AVIAN BIRD FLU*(continued from page 1)*

The fact of the matter is, since a pandemic strain has not emerged yet, there is absolutely no vaccine currently available. And once identified it may take at least 9 months to manufacture vaccines from start to finish. There are also no antivirals. At present there is only one class of antiviral that has been shown to be effective against all of the H5N1 human isolates from Asia. That is known as Tamiflu (Oseltamivir) and Relenza (Zanamivir). This class of antiviral only helps slow the spread of the virus. WHO recommends that countries with the capability to manufacture this class begin stockpiling them.

Does the Government of American Samoa have a plan to prepare itself for such a horrible undertaking? Yes, WHO and President Bush announced on November 1, 2005 a Federal Plan once the world experiences the Pandemic Influenza. It is highly recommended by WHO that every level of government, whether it 's national, state, or local, to have a preparedness plan in place. All facets of our government shall have a plan, not just the Department of Health because everyone will be affected. We must share resources and plans, and we must also practice or exercise those plans over and over again so that we will be well prepared and know what to expect.

Further, it would be highly recommended that we, in the Pacific region, must share our plans. Our neighbors' plans must have commonalities and similarities so that if one neighbor is affected, that would greatly enhance our capability to utilize our plan of preparedness.

ASEPA Monitors Health of Coral Reefs

The more aware we become of how fragile our environment is, the more important it is to learn about the effects of our actions on the world around us. Being a small community, it is critical that we protect our limited resources. The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) is pleased to announce the continuation of a coral reef monitoring effort to assess the impacts of land-based pollution on our coral reefs. This is a collaboration between ASEPA and local experts from the Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the National Park Service of American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Division of Environmental Quality Long Term Marine Monitoring Program. It is exciting because this effort demonstrates a combination of resources and expertise across the Pacific towards a common goal: *the protection of coral reefs and the resources they provide for us.*

Initiated in 2003, 12 monitoring stations have now been established on coral reefs adjacent to 12 villages around Tutuila, ranging from Leone in the southwest to Masefau in the northeast. The monitoring stations are used to examine the relationships between human population density, watershed size and land-use on coral reef integrity, or "health". It is anticipated that the information collected will: 1) teach us about our coral reef resources and how coral populations naturally change over time, 2) describe which aspects of the coral and deep sea ecosystems change under increased pollution, 3) evaluate the relative influences of population density on each watershed, 4) complete an ASEPA waterbody ranking procedure that is part of our program requirements. The information gathered will be shared with the general public and school systems to increase the awareness of our coral reef resources. It will also explain that what we do on land affects our marine resources, from corals to fish.

Nationally, our effort is leading the way by establishing "bio-criteria" standards that will one day be integrated with our Water Quality Standards. Gathering water quality data is difficult because it changes with each passing rainstorm, and depending on when a sample is collected it may be "polluted" or "clean". Sampling the corals, plants and animals that live on our coral reefs can also tell us about the quality of the water. Thus, we use the term "bio-criteria" to describe a set of biological measures to describe a health reef system. The nationwide study of bio-criteria and coral reef systems is still in its early development and we are very excited to be at the forefront of this research.

For more information about this or other ongoing ASEPA water quality assessment studies, please contact ASEPA Water Program at 633-2304.

GET A FREE ASG EMAIL ADDRESS ON**amsamoa.gov.as:**

*Email your name, department, current email address
and the new email address you want to
tapuitema@amsamoa.gov.as*

ASG RADIO PROGRAM*with***Governor Togiola Tulafono****Saturdays @ 7a.m.****On: Showers of Blessings****FM 104.7****Call 699-8123 or 699-8124**

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorenson

Historian - Office of the Governor

On December 17, 1925, in American Samoa, the Lau'i-i-Faga'itua portion of the "William McKinley Memorial Road" was completed at a cost of \$24,098. Chief Le'iato held a celebration and feast at Faga'itua to commemorate the event.

On December 17, 1942, the U.S. Marine Corps' 1st Replacement Battalion arrived in American Samoa.

On December 17, 1975, Senator Lualemaga Faliliu of American Samoa was shot and killed on Savai'i.

On December 18, 1900, the chiefs of Tutuila congratulated U.S. President William McKinley on his re-election, and expressed their admiration for Governor Benjamin Franklin Tilley, saying "...you gave us a leader, a Governor, a High Chief, whom we have learned to love and respect." The Reverend Ebenezer Vicesimus Cooper of the London Missionary Society added his praise, writing that "I cannot conceive of your finding a better man to represent your government in such delicate matters as must always be associated with the task of 'annexing' than Commander Tilley."

On December 18, 1933, *Mau* leader Olaf Frederick Nelson's sedition trial began in Apia. A.M. McCarthy was the prosecutor and Gustav Klinkmüller, a lawyer who had worked in the German administration, handled Nelson's defense.

On December 19, 1911, Dr. Erich Schultz-Ewerth succeeded Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich Solf as Imperial Governor of German Samoa.

On December 19, 1968, in a letter to Secretary of the Interior-Designate Walter J. Hickel, Seattle publisher (*Marine Digest*) and Republican stalwart John Morse Haydon asked to be considered for the governorship of American Samoa. He had earlier expressed interest in being High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and in the governorship of Guam, but decided against it. Washington's Democratic Senator Henry M. ("Scoop") Jackson felt that there would be a political controversy generated by the appointment of "a Caucasian" to that post, in view of Guam's upcoming gubernatorial election (its first) in 1970. Mr. Haydon felt that American Samoa's climate would be good for Mrs. (Jean P.) Haydon's health. (She was suffering from lung cancer).

On December 20, 1940, Admiral Harold Raynsford Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, directed the Governor of American Samoa, Captain Laurence Wild, to make suggestions for the establishment of "a Native Insular Force, not to exceed 500 men, to be officered and trained by the U.S. Marine Corps, and to be employed ashore in Samoa, mainly as outposts and guards at beaches...The Governor replied by recommending the establishment of a Native Insular Force separate and distinct from the Fita Fita Guard, which was to function under and to be paid by the Government of American Samoa."

On December 20, 1941, at the entrance to Pago Pago Harbor, each of the six-inch guns in the Navy's Breakers Point battery fired 12 rounds at a towed target in the harbor, while the sister guns at the Blunts Point battery fired 20 rounds at another towed target.

On December 20, 1952, Captain Henry Minett, American Samoa's third naval governor (acting: December 16, 1902-May 5, 1903) died in Oteen, North Carolina, at age 95 1/2.

On December 21, 1921, Captain Waldo Evans, Governor of American Samoa, enacted his "Regulation No. 6-1921," which amended Commander Clark Daniel Stearns' "Regulation No. 5-1913," which had earlier amended Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley's "Regulation No. 4-1900: Alienation of Native Lands."

On December 21, 1927, New Zealand's Governor-General, Sir Charles Fergusson, signed an Order-in-Council giving Western Samoa's Administrator, Sir George Richardson, the power to deport *Mau* leaders Olaf Frederick Nelson, Edwin William Gurr and Alfred Smyth.

On December 21, 1940, the advance detachment of the U.S. Marine Corps' 7th Defense Battalion arrived in Tutuila.

On December 21, 1941, an Army tugboat towing a barge carrying refugees from Canton Island (in the Phoenix Islands) entered Pago Pago Harbor. The refugees were fleeing from a possible Japanese occupation.

Energy Cost Guide for Residential Homes from ASPA

Approximate Appliance Use and Cost at the current electric residential rate of .23026 Cents Per Kilowatt Hour for July 2005

Source: PG&E - Usage based average family of Appliance watt usage will depending on	AVERAG	HOURS	KWH		
APPLIANC	WATT	PER	PER	COST	COST
Air Con (8,000	840	511	429	98.84	
Clock	2	720	1	0.33	3.98
Coffee	400	12	5	1.11	13.26
Personal	750	124	93	21.41	
Popcorn	660	3	2	0.46	5.47
Dishwash	1200	30	36	8.29	99.47
Disposa	375	2	1	0.17	2.07
Dryer	4600	20	92	21.18	
10" Kitchen	40	25	1	0.23	2.76
Frv	1150	25	29	6.62	79.44
Freeze	300	170	51	11.74	
Grill	1250	5	6	1.44	17.27
Hair	600	3.47	2	0.48	5.75
Heat	250	10	3	0.58	6.91
Auxiliary	1320	30	40	9.12	
Space	4000	240	960		
Iron	1000	12	12	2.76	33.16
100 Watt	100	90	9	2.07	24.87
Lawn	1000	8	8	1.84	22.10
Mixe	150	4	1	0.14	1.66
Microwav	1450	11	16	3.67	44.07
Table	50	120	6	1.38	16.58
Range, Family	1250	10	125	28.78	
Ref/Freezer	250	160	40	9.21	
Frost Free	600	250	150	34.54	
Rotisseri	1400	30	42	9.67	
Self-Cleaning	4000	1	4	0.92	11.05
Sewing	100	10	1	0.23	2.76
Stere	150	120	18	4.14	49.74
Sunlam	400	10	4	0.92	11.05
Black & White	200	120	24	5.53	66.31
Color	350	120	42	9.67	
Toaste	1150	4	5	1.06	12.71
Toothbrus	1.1	720	1	0.18	2.19
Vacuum,	600	10	6	1.38	16.58
Vacuum,	370	10	4	0.85	10.22
Waffle	1100	1.5	2	0.38	4.56
Automatic	250	12	3	0.69	8.29
Family of 4 - Average uses 110	4000	67	268	58.82	705.78

Territorial Energy Office Announces its 2006 Home Energy and Refrigerator Assistance Programs

The Territorial Energy Office (TEO) has just received its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for calendar year 2006. The program is designed to assist qualified low income families with their monthly electric bills. In addition, TEO has also received their High Energy Efficiency Refrigerator Assistance Program (HEERAP). The HEERAP program is designed to replace energy inefficient refrigerators. This program, like the LIHEAP program, is designed primarily for low income families.

To take advantage of these programs, individuals must come to the TEO office, located in Tafuna, directly across from the former or old Army Reserves Headquarters, and fill out an application, during normal working hours. To expedite the application process, please bring a copy of your current electric bill, your 2004 Income Tax return, proof of income, if you are retired and two of your latest payroll check stubs.

For additional information about these programs, contact the Energy Office at 699-1101, 1102 or 1103.

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary scholarship

Mr. Ching Maou Wei became the latest recipient of the Department of Commerce's Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary scholarship award. The \$2,500 scholarship is offered each semester to deserving upperclass students who are majoring in a marine science field.

Wei will be the lone marine science December graduate from American Samoa Community College, and he plans to attend the University of Hawaii beginning in January. He lists his education goals as completing a marine science bachelor's degree and possibly pursuing higher degrees in the field.

The scholarship promotes and supports marine science education for local students who have chosen that field of study. There is a critical need for locally-based scientific staff, since most of the people employed in the top science positions are currently off-island contractors.

Department of Commerce's Director Faleseu Eliu Paopao reports, "Our department is dedicated to the goal of local capacity building in professional areas. The sanctuary, as well as other local resource agencies, will always have a need for professional marine scientist. We want to give our own people the chance to excel in this field and return to serve our island."

Wei is the third recipient of this award. Previous awardees were Ms. Sasa Satele and Ms. Bonnie McCuddin.

Contact Nancy at Fagatele Bay at 633-7354 or the Department of Commerce for any additional information.

Reminder from DPS: The Holiday Enforcement Program will continue thru Jan. 3, 2006. Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season American Samoa.



TEMCO/CCP employees distributing gift baskets and other holiday goodies to patients at LBJ; and a happy recipient of one of the gift baskets.

Attorney General Sialega M. Togafau Requests DPS Assistance on Identity Theft

In a letter issued recently, AG Sialega M. Togafau requested Commissioner of Public Safety, PC Sotoa Savali's assistance in issuing Police Reports to victims of Identity Theft. It states that, "Mike Keyser, an assistant attorney general in charge of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, recently commenced a public awareness campaign to promote consumer protection matters in the territory. Since he introduced the issue of identity theft to the general public, the Bureau has encountered an alarmingly high rate of identity theft victims on island. We attribute this to the fact that the public may not fully understand how credit works, how to monitor and protect it.

We recently created an informational pamphlet that we will begin handing out to victims. Included in the pamphlet are directions to obtain a police report which when forwarded to the credit bureaus will block fraudulent information on victims' credit reports.

In order to provide the best possible support for victims dealing with repairing their damaged credit, we are respectfully asking for your department's assistance. The three major credit reporting agencies require a police report in order for them to block information that victims report as resulting from identity theft. I cannot stress enough how important the police report is towards repairing a person's damaged credit. Individuals coming into the Bureau tell us that the Department of Public Safety is turning them away. They tell us that they are being told that the police cannot issue a police report because the crime of identity theft does not exist. While we understand that ASG does not have an identity theft crime in the criminal code, I believe we can work around that and still serve the people of American Samoa. You certainly may list the charge as "stealing" (ASCA § 46.4103) as well as "fraudulent use of a credit device" (ASCA § 46.4119). This will allow the victims the opportunity to obtain a police report and begin to repair their damaged credit."

Email your articles to:

tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

Or call 633-4116 or Harry Stevens @ 733-1694